Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page 6, lines 7-8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~Fig. 9 shows~~ Figs. 9A – 9D show data formats of master plug registers and plug control registers of one of the link layer processors;

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 7, lines 18-21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Link layer processors 31 and 32 are connected to a host bus S1 and are interconnected by an isochronous data path S2 and a sync signal path S3 for transmission of synchronized isochronous packets. Host bus S1 ~~servers~~ serve as a data path for asynchronous packets.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 9, lines 5-14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

On the other hand, channel number translation is performed for isochronous (stream) transfers since the target node is identified by a channel number instead of by a node identifier. For this reason, the transceiver nodes 210 and 220 are respectively set to different channel numbers before an isochronous transfer begins. As will be described in detail later, stream packets transmitted on the bus B2, for example, are received by the node 220 and passed through the isochronous data path ~~S3~~ S2 to the node 210, where the channel number contained in their header is translated to the channel number set in the node 210 and then transmitted to the bus B1 ~~at a second speed.~~

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 11, lines 19-24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When translating the header of an asynchronous packet transmitted from any of the communication nodes 231, 232 and 233 to the communication node

241, the CPU 11 uses the mapping table ~~616~~ 61. CPU 11 accesses the mapping table 62 to perform header translation on asynchronous packets transmitted from the communication node 241 to any of the communication nodes 231, 232 and 233.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 13, lines 4-10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The write response packet from node 241 ~~is~~ received by the node 220 ~~and~~ is stored in the RAM 13. ~~CPU11~~ CPU 11 examines the RAM 13 by comparing the transaction label and the source and destination IDs contained in the write response packet with those stored in the RAM 13, and knows that node 200 has received a corresponding write response packet from node 241 in response to the write request packet which the node 210 had previously received from node 231.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 18, lines 14-19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 11 illustrates a second embodiment of the present invention. Speed converter 102 of this embodiment additionally includes physical layer processors ~~22~~ 23 and 24 connected in series (daisy-chained) between the physical layer processor 21 and the bus B1, and a physical layer processor 25 connected in series between the physical layer processor 22 and the bus B2.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 19, lines 3-8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 12, communication nodes 311 and 312 are attached to the bus B1 of Fig. 11 and communication nodes 321, 322 and 323 are attached to the bus B2. For illustration, the nodes 311 and 321 are assumed to be a digital video camera with a transmission speed of 200 Mbps, while the other nodes are personal computers capable of operating at 400 Mbps.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20, starting on page 19, line 25 and ending on page 20, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~If~~ Assume that the transceiver node 211, for example, receives a configuration-ROM read request packet from communication node 312 on bus B1~~.~~ and ~~Configuration~~ the configuration ROM data of all communication nodes are stored in the RAM 13. In response to the read request from node 312, the transceiver node 211 reads from the RAM 13 the configuration ROM data of communication node 321 on bus B2 that is defined in the mapping table 71 as a node corresponding to the transceiver node 211 and returns a read response packet containing the read configuration ROM data. Therefore, the communication nodes 321, 322, 323 on bus B2 are "visible" from all communication nodes on bus B1, instead of the nodes 211, 212 and 213. Likewise, the communication nodes 311 and 312 on bus B1 are "visible" from all communication nodes on bus B2, instead of the nodes 221 and 222.